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## **ABSTRACT**

A purified preparation of primate embryonic stem This preparation is characterized cells is disclosed. by the following cell surface markers: SSEA-1 (-); SSEA-4 (+); TRA-1-60 (+); TRA-1-81 (+); and alkaline In a particularly advantageous phosphatase (+). embodiment, the cells of the preparation are human embryonic stem cells, have normal karyotypes, and continue to proliferate in an undifferentiated state after continuous culture for eleven months. embryonic stem cell lines also retain the ability, throughout the culture, to form trophoblast and to differentiate into all tissues derived from all three. embryonic germ layers (endoderm, mesoderm and ectoderm). A method for isolating a primate embryonic stem cell line is also disclosed.